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AMENDMENTSIn the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application and incorporates the Examiner's Amendment in an Office Communication mailed August 17, 2004.

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) The method to treat wastewater of claim [20]26, wherein the step of adjusting a flowrate comprises adjusting a flowrate based on an optimization algorithm.

24. (Currently amended) The method to treat wastewater of claim [20]26, wherein the step of adjusting a flowrate comprises adjusting a flowrate based on a record of the [rheological property] on-line viscosity of the [wastewater stream]liquid-rich stream.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) A method to treat wastewater, comprising:
providing a wastewater stream;
adding a treatment agent to the wastewater stream to produce a treated stream;
separating the treated stream into a liquid-rich stream and a solid-rich stream;
continuously measuring an on-line viscosity of the liquid-rich stream with a sensor fluidly connected to the liquid rich stream; and
adjusting a flowrate of the treatment agent based on the on-line viscosity.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) The method to treat wastewater of claim 26, wherein the step of adding a treatment agent comprises adding a flocculating agent.

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29. (Original) The method to treat wastewater of claim 26, wherein the step of adjusting a flowrate of the treatment agent occurs before the step of adding the treatment agent to the wastewater stream.

30. (Original) The method to treat wastewater of claim 26, wherein the step of separating the treated stream comprises separating the treated stream using a centrifuge.

31. (Original) The method to treat wastewater of claim 26, wherein the step of separating the treated stream comprises separating the treated stream using a filtration apparatus.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of adjusting a flowrate of the treatment agent comprises determining a minimum value of the on-line viscosity.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of adjusting a flowrate of the treatment agent comprises varying the flowrate of the treatment agent to determine a minimum value of the on-line viscosity.

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